

# Wide Area Information Servers

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- Goals
- Project Structure
- System Features
- Status

Dow Jones

Thinking Machines

Apple

Peat Marwick

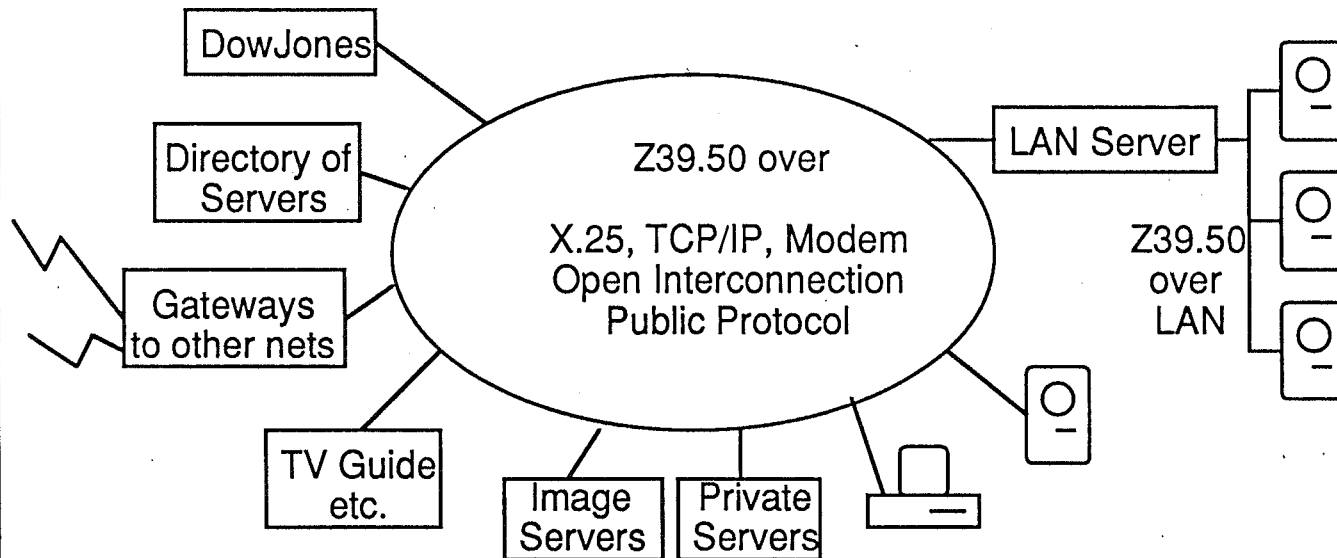
- Conclusion

## Goals

- Catalyze a market of Wide Area Information Servers
- Establish open protocol for Information Servers
- Produce skeleton Producer ---> Consumer system
- If the system is useful:
  - Move into production at TMC and Dow
  - Transfer technology to Apple Products Division
  - Evangelize third parties to write Mac software
- Find out what is missing from our system

WAIS

# Wide Area Information Server Architecture



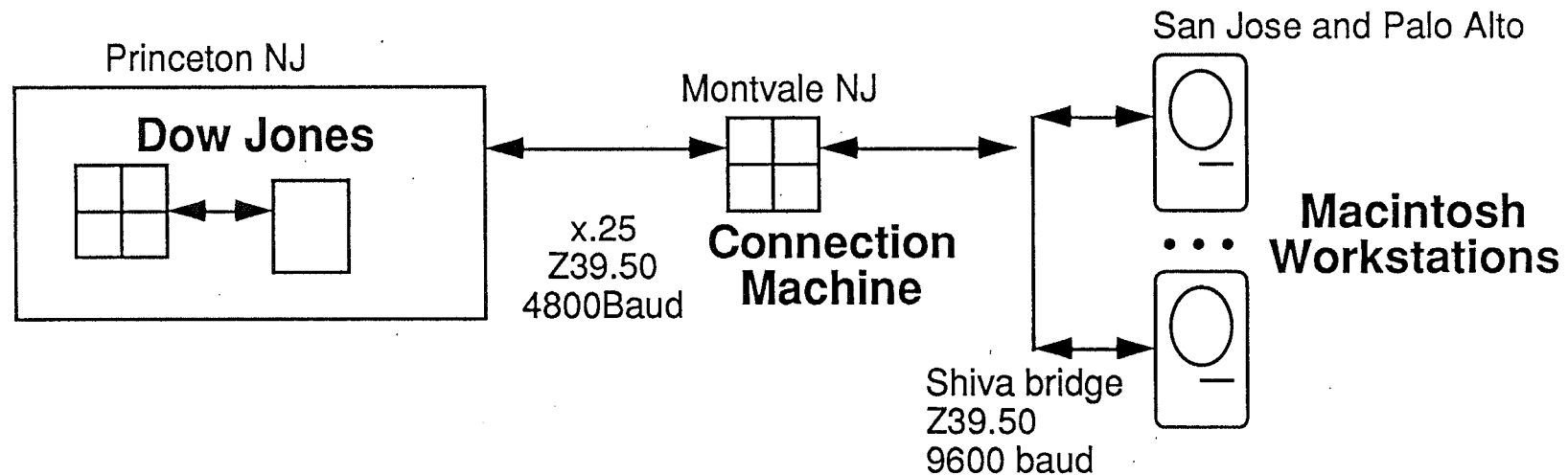
**Users Problems:**  
Selecting Servers  
Answering Questions  
Organizing Responses

**Architecture Issues:**  
Scalability  
Security  
Business model for servers  
Reliable Access

## **Proposed Techniques**

- **No Algebraic Query Language:  
English Language and Relevance feedback**
- **Integrate Personal, corporate, and published  
information access**
- **Interactive questions become lasting agents  
to continue the search (personal newspaper)**
- **Single Computer-to-Computer Protocol**

# Demonstration System Structure



## Published Data Server:

Wall Street Journal,  
Barrons,  
450 Magazines.

## Corporate Data Server:

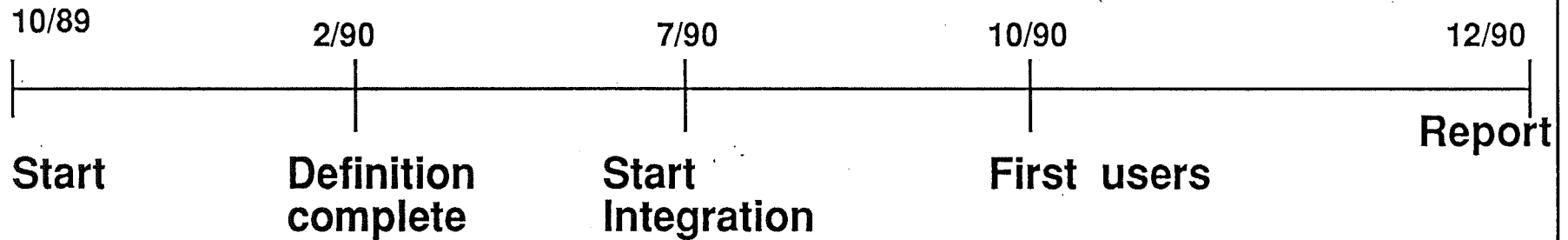
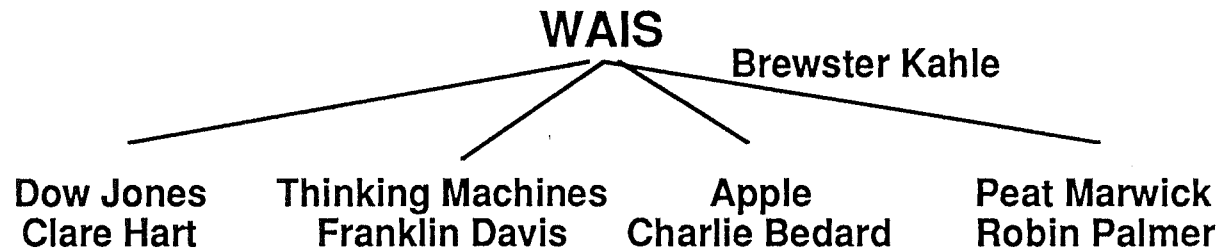
Memo's, proposals,  
Laws, regulations,  
Resumes, training material.

## Personal Workstation:

Personal files,  
user interface.

WAIS

# Project Structure



# **Dow Jones Components**

- **Application protocol for DowQuest: working.**
- **Provide DowVision Broadcast to Participants: complete.**
- **Provide DowVision Interactive: yet to come.**

# Thinking Machines Components

- **Information Retrieval on the Connection Machine: working (DowQuest functionality)**
- **Application Protocol Implementation for CM: complete.**
- **DowVision Support: working, needs integration**
- **WAIStation (user interface): working.**



## **Apple Components**

- **User Interface: In implementation.**
- **Application Protocol Implementation: working**
- **Communications Software: working**
- **User Studies: waiting for users**

## **Peat Marwick Components**

- **Provide relevant data: complete.**
- **Select and prepare installation site:  
in process.**
- **Help with user scenarios: working.**
- **Feedback design ideas and comments:  
working.**

## **User Feedback**

- **We have built most of our initial system: users are starting to provide feedback.**
- **9600 baud is not good enough for interactive text**
- **Separate sources (even in one server) is useful to guide user questions.**

## **What Next?**

- **Continue building and refining through the year.**
- **Outline each companies ideas (and commitments) on how to proceed next year**
- **How can we better serve the users?**